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BRIGADIER GENERAL BENJAMIN JEPSON WEBSTER, USAF

Benjamin Jepson Webster was born in New Haven, Connecticut, April 4, 1911. He was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on June 10, 1932, commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps and assigned with the 64th Coast Artillery in Hawaii. In the fall of 1932, he began flying training and after graduating from primary and advanced flying schools was rated a pilot and transferred to the Air Corps February 16, 1934.

General Webster then joined the Sixth Pursuit Squadron in Hawaii. In June, 1936, he was assigned to Kelly Field, Texas, where he served as assistant supply officer of a squadron and then as a flying instructor at the advanced flying school. He became a physics instructor at the U.S. Military Academy in July, 1940, and in February, 1942, was named director of flying and base operations officer for Stewart Field, the air base connected with the Academy.

In January, 1944, General Webster was assigned as executive officer of the 67th Fighter Wing, Eighth Air Force, in the European theater. He served acting chief of staff of the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command from August October, 1944, and then assumed command of that organization. During his service overseas he flew 10 combat missions, totalling 30 hours in P-38's, P-47's and P-51's.

General Webster assumed command of Stewart Field at West Point, New York, in June, 1945. He entered the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in August, 1947, graduated in June, 1948 and was named assistant chief of staff for operations of the Seventh Air Division in Hawaii. Three months later, he became director of operations and training of the Pacific Air Command, also in Hawaii.

In July, 1949, General Webster was assigned to Air Force headquarters, Washington, D. C., as Deputy Director of Program Standards and Cost Control in the Office of the Comptroller. From July to August, 1952, he served as special assistant to the Comptroller and then entered the National War College. He was then assigned as Chief, Air Force Group of the Joint American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey.

General Webster has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Air Medal, Army Commendation Ribbon and French Croix de Guerre. He is rated a command pilot.

General Webster and his wife, Mrs. Barbara Ann Webster, have two sons, John Adams and Thomas Benjamin.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (temporary) July 4, 1935; to first lieutenant (permanent) August 1, 1935; to captain (temporary) September 9, 1940; to major (temporary) July 15, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) January 23, 1942; to captain (permanent) June 10, 1942; to colonel (temporary) July 2, 1943; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) July 1, 1948; to colonel (permanent) October 19, 1949; to brigadier general (temporary) December 3, 1952, with date of rank from November 23, 1952.

As of 10 December 1952

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November 1949

B I O G R A P H Y

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALBERT C. WEDEMEYER

Albert C. Wedemeyer was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 9, 1896. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry on November 1, 1918.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant on February 27, 1920; to captain on August 1, 1935; to major on July 1, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (temp) on September 15, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on February 1, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on July 7, 1942; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on December 11, 1942; to major general (temporary on September 20, 1943; to major general (permanent) on January 24, with the date of rank from July 9, 1942; to lieutenant general (temporary) on January 1, 1945.

SERVICE

He was stationed at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. until June 1919. He was then sent to Europe for an observation tour of battlefields in Belgium, France and Germany, and returned to the United States in September 1919, when he entered the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation in June 1920, he was assigned to the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning.

In June 1922, he became Aide to Brigadier General Paul B. Malone, Commandant of the Infantry School, accompanying him to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in December 1922, and remaining as his Aide at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, from December 1922 until September 1923. He was sent to Manila, Philippine Islands, for duty with the 31st Infantry, transferring in December 1923, to the 57th Infantry at Fort McKinley, Philippine Islands.

He returned to the U.S. in October 1925, and was assigned to the 12th Infantry at Fort Washington, Md. In December 1927, he was assigned as Aide to the Commanding General of the District of Washington, and in January 1930 went to Tientsin, China, for duty with the 15th Infantry. He became Aide to Major General C. E. Kilbourne at Corregidor Island, Philippine Islands, in March 1932.

In June 1933, he became Aide to Major General Stanley D. Embick at Corregidor Island. He returned to the U.S. in June 1934, and entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was graduated from the two-year course in June 1936, then went to Washington, D.C. for duty with the Intelligence Division, G-2, of the War Department General Staff, for a brief period.

In July 1936, he went to Berlin, Germany, and attended the German War College until August 1938. Upon his return to the U.S. in August 1938, he was assigned to the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia; in January 1940 was assigned to the 94th Anti-tank Battalion there, serving as Executive Officer.

WEDEMEYER, ALBERT C.

In September 1940 he went to Washington, D.C. to serve in the Training Section of the Office, Chief of Infantry, until May 1941, when he became a member of the Plans Group, War Plans Division, of the War Department General Staff. In that division he served as a member of the Joint Strategic Committee and the Combined Subjects Committee, continuing in that assignment when the War Plans Division became Operations Division in March 1942.

He became Chief of the Strategy and Policy Section, Operations Division in June 1942. During this tour of duty in the War Department he attended the major conferences on Allied Strategy, also being called, after his assignment to Southeast Asia Command, to the Cairo Conference. During this tour of duty he participated as an Operations Division Observer in the initial landings on Sicily.

He became Deputy Chief of Staff of the Southeast Asia Command in October 1943. In October 1944, he was ordered to China as Commanding General United States Forces, China Theater of Operations. He also served during this period as Chief of Staff to the Generalissimo.

He returned to the U.S. and the War Department announced that he was to succeed Lieutenant General William H. Simpson as Commanding General of the Second Army on 5 September 1946. He assumed command on 25 September 1946.

In the summer of 1947 he was designated as Special Envoy of the President with the Ambassadorial rank and dispatched to the Far East to make a survey of conditions in China and Korea. Shortly after his return he was assigned as the Director of Plans and Operations, General Staff, Department of the Army in Washington, from which assignment he was relieved in November 1948 to become Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Combat Operations.

On 26 August 1949, the Department of the Army named General Wedemeyer to command the Sixth Army with Headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco, California. He assumed command in accordance with these orders on 22 October 1949.

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(Suggested remarks which may be used in introducing General Wedemeyer)

In 34 years of Army service, Lieutenant General Albert C. Wedemeyer has trod the long road from Cadet at the Military Academy to war time Commander of U. S. Forces in the China Theater of Operations.

China, which has been the graveyard of so many Western military and diplomatic reputations, served to fix his standing as one of the able soldier-diplomats of our day. Time is noted for its deteriorating effect on the stature of war leaders, but time and events have enhanced the public's opinion of the service that General Wedemeyer rendered our country in the Orient from 1944 to 1946, and again in 1947 when he returned to survey conditions in China and Korea as special envoy of the President, with ambassadorial rank.

Since the war he has commanded the Second Army and held important General Staff assignments. From 1947 to 1949 he was Director of Plans and Operations and Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Combat Operations in the Department of the Army, Washington, D. C.

On October 22nd, last year, he assumed command of the Sixth Army with headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco. Here he has concerned himself with the effectiveness of our military defenses in the West, with a particular interest in the development of the Organized Reserve and the National Guard in this area.

General Wedemeyer served many years as a troop commander and as a student at our top service schools. Enrolled in the German War College, just before World War II, he had an opportunity to observe the training and operation of the Imperial General Staff. These experiences prepared him for his war role and for the important post he now occupies in our nation's defense establishment. His remarkable record makes his voice one to heed and his counsel worthy of earnest consideration.

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Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, Commanding General
6TH Army, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

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